REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his helpful comments during the recent telephonic interview. The present amendment cancels all previously pending claims and sets forth new method and apparatus claims which, based on the telephonic interview, are believed to recite subject matter that is patentably novel and unobvious over Guglielmi et al., Balko et al., and all other prior art of record. The Examiner will note that Applicant has added reference letters to Figure 13 and has amended the specification to define the "true lumen" of the blood vessel and to clearly state that for purposes of this patent application the hollow interior of a vessel wall defect such as an aneurysm is not to be considered a portion of the true lumen. New method claims 147-155 are directed to methods wherein the intravascular member defines a flow channel therethrough when in its expanded configuration and wherein the expanded intravascular member is implanted within the true lumen of the blood vessel (e.g., not within the interior of the aneurysm or other vessel wall defect) such that blood flowing through the true lumen of the blood vessel will flow through the flow channel of the intravascular member.

As discussed during the telephone interview, Figure 1 of the Guglielmi et al. reference shows an embodiment of an occlusion coil in an undeformed shape outside the body. The written specification of Guglielmi et al. mentions that the coil may be loosely deformed within the hollow interior of an aneurysm. Applicant remains of the position that, when "loosely deformed" as taught by Guglielmi et al. the device would not be expected to remain in the undeformed helical configuration shown in Figure 1. (See, for example, Figures 4 and 5 of the Guglielmi et al. reference showing the device assuming a deformed, non-helical configuration when positioned within the aneurysm sac.) However, the new method claims 147-155 clearly distinguish in several ways over Guglielmi et al. even if (arguendo) the Guglielmi device could be place within the interior of an aneurysm sac while in the undeformed helical configuration shown in Figure 1. For example, Guglielmi et al. does not teach or render obvious the implantation of any detachable intravascular member within the true lumen of the blood vessel (e.g., not within the interior of the aneurysm or other vessel wall defect) such that blood flowing through the true lumen of the blood vessel will flow

through a flow channel defined within the intravascular member, as recited by new method Claims 147-155. On these grounds and others not specifically articulated here, new Claims 147-155 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Also, Applicant has added new system claims 156-162 which recite a system wherein the intravascular member is connected, by way of a releasable connection, to an advancer and wherein the advancer is useable to advance the intravascular member out of a delivery catheter such that the intravascular member expands to its expanded configuration within the true lumen of a blood vessel in an orientation that is substantially coaxial with the advancer. This is clearly different from anything fairly taught by Guglielmi et al., Balko et al. or any other art of record. For example, although Guglielmi et al. teaches an occlusion coil that is releasably connected to an advancer, it does not deploy in an orientation that is coaxial to the advancer, as may be appreciated by comparing Guglielmi's Figure 1 to Applicant's Figure 10:

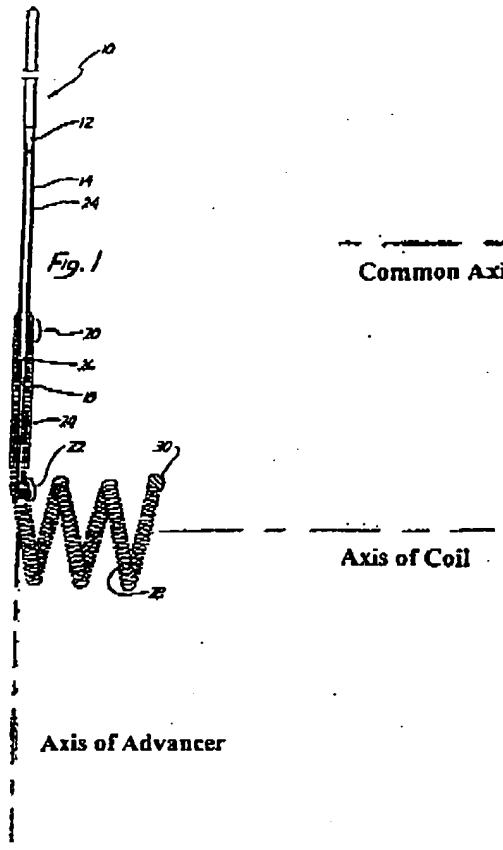
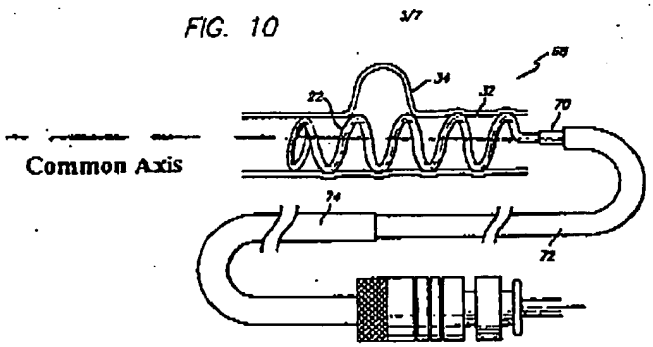


FIG. 10



Furthermore, there is n suggestion in Guglielmi et al. that would render obvious the concept of incorporating a releasable connection of the type used in Guglielmi's occlusive, non-coaxially deployed device with a non-occlusive, bloodflow channeling, coaxially deployed device as shown in Balko et al. Thus, for these reasons and other not specifically articulated here, new system Claims 156-162 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Also, Applicant has amended Figure 11 to show the ball and claw. This ball and claw assembly was shown in the originally filed informal drawings but was inadvertently omitted from the formal drawings filed by Applicant on August 16, 2001. Thus, this drawing change does not incorporate any new matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel to discuss any further measures that may be taken to facilitate allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 23, 2003 By:

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